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do this, must intelligent men stoop to their level, buy their votes or go with them to drink in their haunts of iniquity? Better be defeated a hundred times over. An appeal made to them in a manly, straightforward way would certainly in the long run be successful, for the most of them have left enough respect for their manhood to be capable of being moved by appeals to their better nature. Our theory of government requires that men should vote intelligently and freely, and every campaign ought to be, from the top to the bottom of society, a campaign of education and of the development of moral self-respect. The "machine" can be spared, but these qualities can not.

### CHRISTMAS.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying:

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

Mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

Christmas will soon be here with its suggestions of happiness and peace. It is the festival of the world's new birth, of its new life of love and helpfulness and brotherliness. It is beyond all other occasions in the thoughts which underlie it and give it meaning. It is the festival of hope for the world. The birth of Him who has given us this day was the assurance to the world that it should some time be redeemed from sin and shame and violence, and be made pure and good and happy. It is essentially an occasion of happiness. Old and young, neighbor and friend, the far and the near, vie with each other in making somebody glad. The sum of human happiness, of pure disinterested pleasure, is, on Christmas morn, raised to the highest point. In this respect, the occasion is not yet all that it ought to be; there is still much that is selfish about it; but it will grow better, for the secret of happiness and holy joy is in it.

It is likewise the day of self-forgetfulness, of regard for others. It is the practical proof that it is more blessed to give than to receive. The little gifts of parents to children, of children to parents, of friend to friend, though of little worth in themselves, are of incalculable value from the spirit of love and tenderness which prompt them. What a world this would be, if the Christmas spirit of giving, of doing for others, of seeking to make

somebody happy, went through every day of the year. Sometime this shall be. The wants of all the poor shall be satisfied. The lost and erring shall all be sought out and cared for. Every man will feel that his highest duty, his most exalted privilege is to do for others. This time may be a good way off, but it will surely come. The star is shining and pointing the way.

Christmas is likewise the promise of peace. When love and self-forgetfulness reign, when men find their highest joy in doing good to others, peace on earth will necessarily reign also. Let us rejoice then and be glad. Let us carry the Christmas spirit and the Christmas hope into all the compass of our lives. In the best sense of the word, we wish all our readers a merry, happy Christmas.

### NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The preliminary arrangements for the World's Peace Congress in Chicago next August are being made as rapidly as possible. A conference of representatives of the different American peace societies will meet in Philadelphia on the 15th of December to discuss the interests of the Congress, to provide for the appointment of the necessary committees, and to arrange any other preliminaries that may be required. Announcements will then be made, so that the friends of peace throughout the country may be fully apprized of what is going on. It takes time, especially in a country so great as ours, as well as much patient effort, to arrange for a Congress as important as the one to be held next year. The peace societies are acting in connection with the World's Congress Auxiliary at Chicago, under whose auspices a great international arbitration and peace congress will be held in Chicago. The annual meeting of the Universal Peace Congress, which it was unanimously voted at Berne to hold in Chicago next year, will be held in connection with this other Congress, and, though independent, will really constitute a part of it. The time of the Congress and all other necessary information will be given at an early date.

The Secretary of the American Peace Society has sent the following letter to the leading religious journals of the country, calling the attention of the pastors of the churches to the observance of Peace Sunday, which falls this year on the eighteenth of December.

*To the Editor of*

DEAR SIR:

The American Peace Society desires through your columns to call the attention of the pastors of the various churches throughout the country to the observance of